

# PROJECT UPDATE

WORKING WITH FARMERS TO GROW THE WEALTH OF TASMANIA

Tasmanian  
Irrigation

SASSAFRAS WESLEY VALE IRRIGATION SCHEME AUGMENTATION



## October 2024

Hi everyone — John Wright here, Project Manager for the Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation (SWISA) project.

The project team have been working hard since our last update, finalising the scheme design and getting us closer to obtaining government approvals.

On behalf of Tasmanian Irrigation, I would like to thank everyone who has been assisting us with access to their properties and for giving us their time when required.

Please find below updates on everything that is happening in the world of the SWISA project.

### About the SWISA project

The Sassafras Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Augmentation (SWISA) is an augmentation of the current operating scheme in the Sassafras Wesley Vale region.

The project will more than double the amount of high-surety irrigation water available to farmers in Tasmania's North-West, create an estimated 120 jobs and underpin \$28.3 million in on-farm investment.



John Wright  
Project Manager

## Access to General Availability Water

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During the first portion of works at Great Bend Pump Station, planned to be conducted in the 2026 winter period, General Availability (GA) water (water outside the defined summer irrigation season) will likely not be available.

Tasmanian Irrigation encourages irrigators to find alternative solutions for supply during this time.

We understand the impact this may have on some operations so if you have any concerns, or are unable to organise alternatives to GA water, please register your details below and a member of our team will be in contact with you.

[Click here to register details](#)

## Timeline

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The timeline below presents the current estimate of when the project will reach milestones. All dates presented are subject to change and will be highly influenced by the process of achieving the EPBC approvals for the project.

Unfortunately, due to delays in seeking our permit under EPBC, the planned delivery of SWISA for the 26/27 summer season is unlikely to be achieved. The actual date of commissioning SWISA will be confirmed during the construction contracting phase.

Milestone activity	Date
Planned EPBC submission date	December 2024
Forecast EPBC decision received	May 2025
Planned construction tender release date	April 2025
Planned tender award	August 2025
Planned construction mobilisation	September 2025
Planned first season of SWISA	November 2027

## Farm Water Access Plans

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Ensuring the long-term health of farming land benefits everyone, and one way that Tasmanian Irrigation supports this is through Farm Water Access Plans (Farm WAPs).

Properties using Tasmanian Irrigation water must have a Farm WAP to guide sustainable water application and the land's ongoing viability for agricultural production.

Farm WAPs are required by State and Federal approvals for Tasmanian Irrigation to provide water to irrigators for any new schemes that are constructed.

A Farm WAP specifies where irrigation water can be applied and outlines actions to mitigate potential environmental risks. Tasmanian Irrigation collaborates with irrigators to create tailored Farm WAPs, which address unique property issues. Over time, we work together to update these plans to reflect any changes affecting irrigation practices.

New Farm WAPs are only required in SWISA if water is purchased on a property that lacks an existing plan. Any property that has an existing Farm WAP that is purchasing additional water will need to have that plan updated to reflect the additional water prior to the delivery of the additional water.

To learn more [visit our website](#).



*Strawberry field, Wesley Vale.*

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## Landowner engagement

As part of the design and planning process, Tasmanian Irrigation and our contractors require access to properties to conduct surveys and other works. We try our best to ensure this is done in a professional and courteous manner, with little to no disturbance to the properties and owners.

Tasmanian Irrigation would like to thank landowners for their patience and assistance throughout this process.

Tasmanian Irrigation is a signatory to the [Charter for Working on Private Farm Land](#), which is currently being reviewed by the Tasmanian Government. We take our responsibilities under the Charter very seriously.

If you have any concerns about how access to your land is being managed, please contact any of the project team listed below.

## Key contacts

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## Acknowledgement of funding

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Total Project Cost: \$124.2 million

Federal Government Funding Allocation: \$62.1 million

State Government Funding Allocation: \$31.05 million

Irrigator Funded Portion through the sale of water entitlements: \$31.05 million



Australian Government



National Water Grid®



Tasmanian Government



*Vineyards and canola crops at Eastford Creek, Sassafra*

